

## Child Safety Across Ages and Stage of Development Birth to Teens<sup>i, ii</sup>

Stage	Antenatal	Birth-6months	6-12 months	1-2years	3-5 years	6-12 years	>12 years
<b>Development</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restricted mobility</li> <li>▪ Rolling</li> <li>▪ Sucking or mouthing objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Crawls</li> <li>▪ Sits up</li> <li>▪ Pulls up to stand</li> <li>▪ Pulling objects down</li> <li>▪ Curiosity &amp; exploring environment</li> <li>▪ Putting everything in mouth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Walks, runs</li> <li>▪ Climbs</li> <li>▪ Turns knobs, dials and taps</li> <li>▪ Increased independence and curiosity</li> <li>▪ Introduction of adults foods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Walks, runs, jumps, climbs</li> <li>▪ Increasingly adventurous</li> <li>▪ Resists constraints</li> <li>▪ Role plays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Using wheeled devices for transport</li> <li>▪ Starts to play team games</li> <li>▪ Independence</li> <li>▪ Unsupervised play time</li> <li>▪ Begins to understand rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Major body changes during puberty</li> <li>▪ Increased risk taking behaviour</li> <li>▪ Demanding more independence</li> <li>▪ Begins part time work</li> </ul>
<b>Risk</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SIDS</li> <li>▪ Fire &amp; smoke dangers</li> <li>▪ Falls: change table, bed</li> <li>▪ Choking: small objects, e.g. buttons, ribbons, &amp; parts of toys</li> <li>▪ Drowning: bath</li> <li>▪ Hyperthermia; hot cars</li> <li>▪ Scalds: hot drinks &amp; bath</li> <li>▪ Poisoning: incorrect dose of medication,</li> <li>▪ UV exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Falls: change table, bed, furniture, stairs, balconies, baby walker</li> <li>▪ Scalds: hot drinks, stove, bath</li> <li>▪ Poisoning: medications cleaning products, chemicals, plants</li> <li>▪ Choking: small objects, food, curtain &amp; blind cords</li> <li>▪ Drowning: pool, spa, pond, water containers</li> <li>▪ Electrocution: power points &amp; cords</li> <li>▪ Crushing: heavy objects book cases, TVs</li> <li>▪ Hyperthermia; hot cars</li> <li>▪ UV exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Traffic: driveway &amp; roadway</li> <li>▪ Falls: high chair, pram, stairs, balcony</li> <li>▪ Crushing: TVs, bird baths, bookcases</li> <li>▪ Burns &amp; scalds: hot drinks, stove</li> <li>▪ Poisoning: medications cleaning products, chemicals, plants</li> <li>▪ Drowning: pool, spa, pond, water features,</li> <li>▪ Choking: small objects, food, curtain &amp; blind cords</li> <li>▪ Hyperthermia; hot cars</li> <li>▪ UV exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Falls: bed, furniture stairs, balcony, play equipment, bikes</li> <li>▪ Burns &amp; scalds: hot drinks, stove, bath, BBQ</li> <li>▪ Poisoning: medications, cleaning products, chemicals, plants</li> <li>▪ Drowning: pool, spa, dam, water features,</li> <li>▪ Traffic: driveway &amp; roadway</li> <li>▪ UV exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Traffic: pedestrian &amp; rider</li> <li>▪ Sport: dental &amp; head injuries</li> <li>▪ Burns: matches lighters</li> <li>▪ Needle sticks</li> <li>▪ UV exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Burns: matches lighters, homemade experiments</li> <li>▪ Traffic: pedestrian, rider, passenger</li> <li>▪ Poisoning: drugs &amp; alcohol exploration</li> <li>▪ Workplace injury</li> <li>▪ Drowning: beaches, rivers &amp; dams, alcohol &amp; swimming</li> <li>▪ UV exposure</li> </ul>

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<b>Safety Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a home safety checklist to identify hazards inside and outside the home</li> <li>Install smoke alarms</li> <li>Prepare and practice a fire evacuation plan</li> <li>Buy Australian Standards (AS) approved products</li> <li>Buy AS approved child restraints &amp; install correctly</li> <li>Install tempering device on hot water system</li> <li>Keep emergency numbers near phone</li> <li>Lock medications, cleaning products &amp; poisons up high</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe sleeping</li> <li>Check smoke alarms, review fire evacuation plan</li> <li>Do not leave baby alone on any change table or change baby on the floor</li> <li>Keep small objects out of reach</li> <li>Never leave a child alone in or near water</li> <li>Never leave a child alone in a car - take them with you</li> <li>Never have hot drinks when holding a baby</li> <li>Only give the recommended dose of medication</li> <li>Slip, slop, slap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use security gates at top and bottom of stairs</li> <li>Restrict access to balconies/decks</li> <li>Do not use baby walkers</li> <li>Use placemats not tablecloths</li> <li>Keep hot objects out of reach</li> <li>Lock medications &amp; poisons up high, remove poisonous plants from garden</li> <li>Keep pool securely fenced &amp; gate latched</li> <li>Use power point plugs</li> <li>Never leave a child alone in a car - take them with you</li> <li>Slip, slop, slap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrict access to driveway and street</li> <li>Use 5 point harness in highchair, prams etc</li> <li>Secure large furniture e.g. Book cases, TVs</li> <li>Keep hot objects, use rear stove hotplates</li> <li>Lock medications &amp; poisons up high, remove poisonous plants from garden</li> <li>Never prop pool gate open</li> <li>Grate or cook hard foods, do not give small hard food e.g. nuts</li> <li>Never leave a child alone in a car - take them with you</li> <li>Slip, slop, slap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid using bunk beds</li> <li>Choose play areas with low equipment &amp; soft fall surfaces</li> <li>Use helmets, elbow &amp; knee pads, wrist guards when riding</li> <li>Start teaching 'Get Down Low &amp; Go Go Go' in case of fire</li> <li>Lock medications &amp; poisons up high</li> <li>Start swimming lessons</li> <li>Use booster seat with H harness in car</li> <li>Start teaching 'Stop Look Listen Think'</li> <li>Slip, slop, slap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain bikes/ provide safe cycling education</li> <li>Use safety equipment for each activity e.g. mouth guards, head gear</li> <li>Teach the rules of team sport and fair play</li> <li>Teach children what to do if they find a discarded needle</li> <li>Slip, slop, slap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parties supervised</li> <li>No alcohol under 18 years of age</li> <li>Be interested in their activities</li> <li>Plan social activities -where, who &amp; contact numbers, when, &amp; how</li> <li>Check workplace health and safety provisions</li> <li>Encourage teens to speak up when they feel unsafe at work</li> <li>Slip slop, slap</li> </ul>

**Focus on early years and early intervention and prevention**  
 Across Child Care Settings



<sup>i</sup> Kidsafe WA, 2002. Kidsafe Home A Community Action Kit for Home Safety. A guide for health professionals and community groups.

<sup>ii</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics. 1994. The Injury Prevention Program. A guide to Safety Counseling on Office Practice. El Grove Village.